

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS

*Subject: Hiss Chambers*

*File Number: 65-14920*

*Section: Vol. 15 Serials 2133-2236*



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## NOTICE

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65-14920 Vol. 15

Serials 2133 - 2236

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1/2/69

New York F.O.

FIELD OFFICE  
FILE NO:  
VOL. NO:

NEW YORK  
65-14920  
15

INVENTORY WORKSHEET

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 5/77

(Mo / Yr)

SERIAL	DATE	DESCRIPTION (TYPE OF COMM, TO, FROM)	NO OF PGS	SENT TO BUREAU	BUFILE NOS. DIRECTED TO
2133	2/15/49	San Francisco teletype to Bureau, New York Washington Field Office, New Orleans	4	yes	
2134	2/15/49	Baltimore teletype to Bureau, New York	2	yes	
2135	2/15/49	Bureau teletype to Boston, New York	1	yes	
2136	2/15/49	Baltimore Boston teletype to Bureau, New York,	1	yes	
2137	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Los Angeles	2	yes	
2138	2/10/49	Memo of Supervisor Tuohy	1	no	released in full
2139	2/11/49	Letter to Director from Washington Field Office	4	yes	
2140	2/14/49	Letter to New York from Director	1	yes	
2141	2/14/49	Letter to New York from Director	1	yes	
2142	2/14/49	Letter to New York from Director	1	yes	
2143	2/14/49	Letter to New York from Director	1	yes	
2144	2/14/49	Lab report to Washington Field Office	1	yes	

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2145	2/15/49	Lab report to New York	1	yes	
2146	2/14/49	Little Rock to Boston	2	yes	
2147	2/14/49	Report of Special Agent Carr	2	yes	
2148	2/14/49	Lab report to Philadelphia	2	yes	
2149	2/15/49	Teletype to Bureau, New York from New Haven	1	yes	
2150	2/16/49	Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, New York, Washington Field, Baltimore, San Francisco	4	yes	
2151	2/15/49	Washington Field Office teletype to New York, Bureau	1	yes	
2152	2/15/49	Baltimore teletype to Bureau, New York, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2153	2/15/49	El Paso teletype to Bureau, New York, Baltimore, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2154	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Los Angeles	1	yes	
2155	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2156	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau	1	yes	

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SERIAL	DATE	DESCRIPTION (TYPE OF COMM, TO, FROM)	NO OF PGS	SENT TO BUREAU	BUFILE NOS. DIRECTED TO
2157	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
58	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2159	2/15/49	Memo of Special Agent Plant, New York	3	no	released in full
2160	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office, Baltimore	6	yes	
2161	2/15/49	Lab report to Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2162	2/14/49	Report of Special Agent Oberndorf	24	yes	
2163	2/15/49	Baltimore letter to Director	1	yes	
2164	2/15/49	Lab report to New York	1	yes	
2165	2/15/49	Letter to Washington Field Office from Director	1	yes	
2166	2/15/49	Letter to Washington Field Office from Director	1	yes	
2167	2/15/49	Lab report to Denver	1	yes	
2168	2/15/49	Memo to New York from Director	1	yes	

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2169	2/15/49	Lab report to New York	1	yes	
2170	2/16/49	Letter to Director from New York	1	yes	
2171	2/16/49	Radiogram to Bureau, New York from Anchorage	1	yes	
2172	2/16/49	San Francisco teletype to Bureau, New York Los Angeles	1	yes	
2173	2/16/49	El Paso teletype to Bureau, New York	1	yes	
2174	2/15/49	Memo of Special Agent Plant, New York	1	no	released in full
2175	2/14/49	Washington Field Office letter to Director	2	yes	
2176	2/14/49	Washington Field Office letter to Director	2	yes	
2177	2/11/49	Report of Special Agent Sirow	6	yes	
2178	2/15/49	Cover page report of Special Agent Kerr	1	yes	
2179	2/15/49	Letter to Director from Norfolk	1	yes	
2180	2/15/49	Letter to Director from Norfolk	2	yes	

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SERIAL	DATE	DESCRIPTION (TYPE OF COMM, TO, FROM)	NO OF PGS	SENT TO BUREAU	BUFILE NOS. DIRECTED TO
2181	2/16/49	Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, New York, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2182	2/16/49	Chicago teletype to Bureau, New York	1	yes	
2183	2/16/49	Boston teletype to Bureau, New York	1	yes	
2184	2/16/49	Bureau teletype to Newark, New York	1	yes	
2185	2/16/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Boston	1	yes	
2186	2/16/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office, Baltimore, Philadelphia	2	yes	
2187	2/16/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2188	2/16/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2189	2/16/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Baltimore	1	yes	
2190	2/16/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Los Angeles	1	yes	
2191	2/15/49	Washington Field Office teletype to Bureau, Baltimore	1	yes	
2192	2/15/49	Washington Field Office teletype to Bureau, St. Louis	1	yes	



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2193	2/17/49	Philadelphia teletype to Bureau, New York	1	yes	
194	2/15/49	Chicago teletype to Bureau	1	yes	
2195	2/15/49	Washington Field Office letter to Bureau	1	yes	
2196	2/16/49	Memo to New York from Director	1	yes	
2197	2/16/49	Lab report to Norfolk	1	yes	
2198	2/16/49	Letter to New York from Director	1	yes	
2199	2/16/49	Letter to New York from Director	1	yes	
2200	2/16/49	Lab report to New York	2	yes	
2201	2/17/49	Boston teletype to Bureau, New York	1	yes	
2202	2/16/49	Memo of Special Agent Hilsbos	2	no	released in full
2203	2/15/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2204	2/15/49	Memo of Special Agent Plant, New York	7	no	released in full

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2205	2/16/49	Letter to Director from Boston	1	yes	
2206	2/17/49	Memo of Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Belmont	1	no	released in full
2207	2/17/49	Washington Field Office teletype to New York	1	yes	
2208	2/16/49	New York letter to Director	1	yes	
2209	2/14/49	Report of Special Agent Taylor	6	yes	
2210	2/15/49	Washington Field Office letter to Director	4	yes	
2211	2/15/49	Washington Field Office letter to Director	3	yes	
2212	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Philadelphia	1	yes	
2213	2/15/49	New York letter to Director	2	yes	
2214	2/17/49	New York letter to Director	1	yes	
2215	2/15/49	Report of Special Agent Frohbose	2	yes	
2216	2/16/49	Baltimore letter to Director	3	yes	

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SERIAL	DATE	DESCRIPTION (TYPE OF COMM, TO, FROM)	NO OF PGS	SENT TO BUREAU	BUFILE NOS. DIRECTED TO
2217	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2218	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office, Baltimore	7	yes	
2219	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	1	yes	
2220	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office, Baltimore	1	yes	
2221	2/16/49	Memo of Special Agent Hilsbos, New York	2	no	released in full
2222	2/17/49	Teletype to New Haven from New York, Baltimore, Bureau	3	yes	
2223	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, New Haven, Los Angeles	3	yes	
2224	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau, Washington Field Office	8	yes	
2225	2/16/49	Los Angeles letter to Director	1	yes	
2226	2/16/49	Washington Field Office letter to Director	1	yes	
2227	2/16/49	Washington Field Office letter to Director	1	yes	
2228	2/17/49	Report of Special Agent Anderson	2	yes	

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SERIAL	DATE	DESCRIPTION (TYPE OF COMM, TO, FROM)	NO OF PGS	SENT TO BUREAU	BUFILE NOS. DIRECTED TO
2229	2/17/49	Bureau teletype to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore	2	yes	
2230	2/16/49	Letter to New York from William Marshall	1	no	released in full
2231	2/17/49	New York teletype to Bureau	1	yes	
2232	2/17/49	Memo of Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Belmont	1	no	released in full
2233	2/18/49	New Haven, teletype to Bureau, New York, Los Angeles	1	yes	
2234	2/18/49	Bureau teletype to New York	1	yes	
2235	2/18/49	New Haven teletype to Bureau, New York	1	yes	
2236	2/17/49	Report of Special Agent Callahan	96	yes	



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CHAMBERS stated that when he broke with the Communist Party in 1938 he trusted ROBERT CANTWELL to the point where he was willing to provide him with his address. In turn he stated that CANTWELL gave him odd jobs, helped him, and lent him money. However, during this period ROBERT CANTWELL remained close to the Communist Party despite CHAMBERS' severance therefrom.

CHAMBERS said that ROBERT CANTWELL retained his Communist Party affiliations until the time of the Russian-German Pact. Just about that time CANTWELL was writing a series of articles for "Time" magazine entitled "Background of War". When the aforementioned pact was signed, CHAMBERS stated, CANTWELL wrote a "humdinger" concerning what had happened to Marxist ideas. As a result of this article the Communists employed at "Time" magazine berated ROBERT CANTWELL extensively.

Shortly thereafter ROBERT CANTWELL experienced a bad nervous breakdown as a result of which he was confined to an institution named BLOOMINGDALES which is located in White Plains, New York. CHAMBERS stated that he visited CANTWELL at this institution only once. After CANTWELL had been there for some period of time he was allowed to take automobile rides with his wife, BETSY CANTWELL, on Sundays. During the course of one of these rides Mrs. CANTWELL took her husband away and he was never returned to the institution.

Mr. CHAMBERS related that when ROBERT CANTWELL left "Time" magazine that organization had settled a considerable amount of money on him. This, according to CHAMBERS, was highly unusual and to his knowledge has never been done on any other occasion. CHAMBERS said that he later learned that this money was used by ROBERT CANTWELL and his wife, BETSY, to purchase a home at Sherman, Connecticut, where they presently reside.

Subsequent to his removal by his wife from the institution, CANTWELL wrote some book reviews for "Time" magazine for which he received appropriate remuneration. However, these reviews eventually became so irrational that the magazine discontinued accepting anything further from him.

CHAMBERS stated that he has not seen ROBERT CANTWELL for some time. However, he said that the latter telephonically communicated

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with him several months ago at which time ~~CANTWELL~~ requested that CHAMBERS endorse a note for approximately \$1,000. ~~CHAMBERS~~ stated that he advised ~~CANTWELL~~ that he would be willing to do this for him provided that he was given further information concerning the details surrounding this loan. He has not heard from ~~CANTWELL~~ since that time.

Relative to his being confused with ROBERT CANTWELL, Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he had no definite impression as to how this confusion came into being. He did state that he believes that some of this mistaken identity might have originated in an individual by the name of WILLIAM or BILL WALTON. He said that he based this impression upon the fact that ALGER HISS when speaking of the possibility of CHAMBERS' having been in a mental institution while testifying before the HUC had attributed his knowledge to BILL WALTON.

CHAMBERS explained that BILL WALTON was a former "Time" correspondent who had been parachuted into Normandy with the American troops and had finally wound up in Prague, Czechoslovakia. While in the latter country he sent into "Time" a thirteen-page cable concerning the "People's Revolution" in Czechoslovakia. According to CHAMBERS, he as foreign news editor refused to print the material contained in the cable as he believed it to be unsubstantiated and probably inaccurate. He said that this refusal on his part was more or less a reflection on the Cable Division at "Time".

Continuing, CHAMBERS stated that the majority of the Communists employed at "Time" magazine are centered in the Cable Division and thus his refusal to print WALTON'S material caused them to be very abusive in their remarks concerning him (CHAMBERS).

Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he has never met BILL WALTON and has never discussed the subject of this cable with him. He said that upon WALTON'S return to the United States he believed that the latter had gone to work for the "New Republic". However, returning to the apparent confusion existing between ROBERT CANTWELL and CHAMBERS, the latter conjectured that some of this confusion might be attributable to WALTON who through his employment on "Time" would have been acquainted with ROBERT CANTWELL and the fact that the latter had been in a mental institution.

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Relative to his own physical condition Mr. CHAMBERS said that, as he has previously stated, he has never at any time been a patient or confined in a mental institution. He admitted that he suffered several attacks which are believed to have been heart attacks. He explained that sometime in 1942 HENRY LUCE as publisher of "Time" decided that one editor should edit the fourteen departments usually located in the back of "Time" magazine. This work was formerly handled by two editors, but LUCE decided that it should be done by one man and subsequently picked CHAMBERS for this job. The latter stated that for several months he worked day and night.

CHAMBERS finally asked for an assistant and the latter after having worked with CHAMBERS for several months collapsed with thrombosis and was sick and in an oxygen tent for approximately a year. About one month after the collapse of this assistant, CHAMBERS said that he himself became ill and his sickness was diagnosed as angina pectoris. Dr. ELIZABETH ROESE WILKINS in Westminster, Maryland, made this diagnosis and subsequently treated him. She instructed him to stay in bed and be as immobile as possible.

CHAMBERS said that he did not follow the doctor's orders to the letter in that he began to help his wife around the farm. As a result he suffered another collapse and was then confined strictly to his bed for a period of several months. During this latter period he could not shave and could not move at all. Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he was absent from "Time" magazine with this illness approximately nine months.

Toward the latter part of this illness the aforementioned Dr. WILKINS took CHAMBERS to Dr. BRIDGEMAN who was connected with Johns Hopkins Clinic and whose office was located on St. Pauls Street near Eager in Baltimore, Maryland. This latter physician, according to CHAMBERS, "gave him the works". He was unable to find that CHAMBERS had any heart condition. He instructed CHAMBERS that if he returned to "Time" that he, the doctor, would give CHAMBERS five years to live. CHAMBERS said that he told HENRY LUCE of this statement and the latter contacted Dr. BRIDGEMAN. At that time BRIDGEMAN told HENRY LUCE that he saw no reason why CHAMBERS could not go back to "Time" magazine at once.



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Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he then returned to work at "Time" and took things easy. For about a year or so thereafter he still had palpitations and then they finally ceased. At about this time he said he went back into his old routine of working day and night.

Finally sometime in 1945 he became Foreign News Editor and he found almost a one hundred percent leftist crew working in that department. As a result he said he often had to rewrite that entire section of the magazine himself. Then one morning while coming in to work on the Long Island Railroad he "blacked out". This condition was brought to the attention of the Managing Editor of "Time" Mr. MATTHEWS, and CHAMBERS was then taken off the Foreign News Desk and put in a Special Projects Division.

CHAMBERS stated that he has never had any further heart attacks which necessitated a doctor's care. He admitted that he does occasionally get pains which he thinks might be attributable to this condition. He stated that he has also been thoroughly examined by a Dr. WALSH McDERMOTT at the New York Hospital in New York City. He explained that Dr. McDERMOTT is the husband of the head researcher for "Life" magazine and his wife is the daughter of LARRY McPHAIL. According to Mr. CHAMBERS Dr. McDERMOTT treated him for a strep throat several years ago at which time that condition confined CHAMBERS to the New York Hospital. During this period Dr. McDERMOTT likewise afforded CHAMBERS a thorough physical examination and was unable to find any cardiac condition.

Mr. CHAMBERS said that the above represented all of the physical examinations with one exception that he could remember having received. With reference to this exception he stated that several years ago an individual who was frequently in the office of "Time" magazine and who sold insurance to a number of magazine employees, told CHAMBERS that he could secure life insurance for him. CHAMBERS stated that he told this man that due to his heart condition he doubted considerably whether or not such insurance could be obtained. However, this individual went ahead and shortly thereafter a doctor, whose name CHAMBERS could not remember, called at his office in "Time" magazine and there afforded him a perfunctory physical examination. CHAMBERS stated that this was the last he ever heard from the doctor or from this insurance representative. He presumes

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that the subject of the sale of insurance to him was dropped as a result of this examination.

CHAMBERS said with further reference to this latter physical examination that it had apparently come to the attention of the investigators for ALGER HISS. He said that it was his recollection that the subject of this examination had come up either in the pre-trial deposition or in the hearings before the House Committee and as a result the attorneys for ALGER HISS had inquired of his (CHAMBERS') lawyers as to the identity of this insurance firm. Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he could not now recall the name of this firm other than that it was located in Springfield, Massachusetts. He promised that he would determine its full title and advise the Agents. However, with further reference to HISS' investigators, CHAMBERS stated that the information concerning this insurance company was given to HISS' investigators and he presumes that they contacted the company for information.

Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he has no objection for Agents of the Bureau to contact the above-named doctors and to obtain from them full information as to his physical condition. Therefore, the following suggestions are made:

1. That the Baltimore Office be instructed to interview Dr. ELIZABETH BEESE WILKINS, Westminister, Maryland, and Dr. BRIDGEMAN, in Baltimore, Maryland, for their opinions on the physical condition of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Inquiry should also be made for any information they may have concerning any examination they made into CHAMBERS' mental condition or if they have any other information that might reflect on a previous mental condition of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS.

2. The New York Office should make similar inquiry of Dr. WALSH McDERMOTT, New York Hospital, New York City.

3. Appropriate inquiry should be made at Bloomingdales Sanatorium, White Plains, New York, for any information they may be able to give relative to the confinement of JOSEPH CAITWELL. In the event such information is refused, it is suggested that if at all possible some statement should be obtained from this institution to the effect whether or not JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS was ever so

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confined there. If it can be ascertained diplomatically any information regarding the type of inquiry made by HISS' investigators at this hospital, it should likewise be ascertained.

2-16-49  
I believe at this  
time we should accelerate  
our inquiries into the background  
of Chambers to insure that we are  
not taken by surprise during the  
trial of Hiss because of some  
information re Chambers past  
if necessary, re Chambers past  
are checking with Hiss' investigators.  
Tell Chambers we  
are checking him & why "Q"

FRANCIS X. PLANT  
SA



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York  
February 17, 1949

- MR. BELMONT
- MR. WHELAN
- MR. CLEGG
- MR. GARDNER
- MR. LADD
- MR. NICHOLS
- MR. ROSEN
- MR. TRACY
- MR. MOHR
- MR. WINTERROWD
- MR. HANCOCK
- MR. GIBSON
- MR. QUINN
- MR. NEASE
- MR. GANDY
- PROPERTY CLERK
- TRAINING UNIT

MEMO

RE: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, et. al.  
PERJURY  
ESPIONAGE - R

At 6:00 pm on February 15, I called Mr. H. B. Fletcher of the Bureau to advise him that when WHITTAKER CHAMBERS was leaving on the afternoon of February 15, after having been interviewed, he left a sealed envelope with the agents which he requested them to open and read after he had left.

I then read to Mr. Fletcher the contents of the envelope. Mr. Fletcher was advised we were going to interview CHAMBERS on February 16 regarding this matter and get full details from the standpoint of whatever was necessary to provide the prosecuting attorney in the HISS Perjury trial to protect the attorney from surprise. We were going to ascertain names, places, dates, persons who knew of these activities and the extent of the activities in the espionage ring with which CHAMBERS had come in contact, with particular reference to ALGER HISS. Mr. Fletcher was advised we would send a copy of the letter down to the Bureau on February 16.

Relative to CHAMBERS' request that only one agent interview him concerning the contents of his letter, instructions were given to Agents Spencer and Plant that, if at all possible, they should both interview him inasmuch as CHAMBERS' real purpose in having only one agent interview him is not clearly known.

A copy of the letter left by CHAMBERS with the agents was sent to the Bureau by cover letter, marked Strictly Confidential, attention of Assistant Director D. M. Ladd, on February 16th.

A. H. BELMONT  
ASAC

AHE:CTC  
65-14920

*at 4:10pm  
on 2-16-49 I  
advised Mr. Fletcher that  
2 agts had interviewed  
Chambers. The result was  
he was advised to Mr. Fletcher &  
would be sent to Bureau by  
letter on 2-17*

65-14920-2106

F. B. I.	
FEB 17 1949	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE
Spencer	RH



JTH:RAA  
68-14920

New York, N. Y.

SCHMAHL also advised that EDWARD O. McLEAN was pretty upset at the time that STRYKER was retained. He stated that it was a matter of pride with McLEAN inasmuch as the services of STRYKER were apparently secured without consulting him and were secured through HISS' brother, DONALD.

SCHMAHL stated, as he had previously stated to the writer and Special Agent F. D. O'Brien, that he valued his contacts with the Department of Justice through the United States Attorney's Office, SDNY, and that he had secured more work through them than he had through his contacts with McLEAN. He indicated to the writer that should he ever be involved in any case in which the Bureau is interested, he would only be too glad to cooperate with the Bureau and furnish them any information within the bounds of ethics.

It seemed clear to the writer that SCHMAHL was endeavoring to discuss the instant case in detail by indicating that he would be glad to furnish any information that he had secured as a result of his investigation. I advised SCHMAHL, as I had advised him in a previous interview, that our investigations are conducted solely by this Bureau, but pointed out to him that should he have any information which he desired to furnish we would be glad to accept it, and I also indicated that I would make a record of his offer to be of assistance.

SCHMAHL advised that he is now in business for himself at 62 William Street, New York City, Room 507, telephone number Digby 4-1795.

It is not believed that any attempt should be made to contact SCHMAHL in connection with this case as it is not believed that he can furnish any information except possibly to give an idea as to the type of defense that HISS' attorneys will probably use. It is to be noted that in his contacts with agents in this case at no time has he volunteered any information of value.

J. T. HILSBOS,  
Special Agent

*We should not encourage him in any way as this case. The defense attys could charge us with unethical tactics. He has no info of value from what we know.*

WM. MARSHALL BULLITT  
CHARLES I. DAWSON  
JOHN E. TARRANT  
R. LEE BLACKWELL  
THOMAS W. BULLITT  
EARL S. WILSON  
FRANCIS T. GOHEEN  
BERNARD H. BARNETT  
RICHARD M. DAWSON

TELEPHONE  
JACKSON 1144

**BULLITT, DAWSON & TARRANT**  
17<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, KENTUCKY HOME LIFE BUILDING  
LOUISVILLE 2, KENTUCKY

February 16, 1949

J. Nagle, Esq.,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
United States Court House,  
Foly Square,  
New York, New York,

Dear Mr. Nagle:

I enclose herewith all of the correspondence that I have ever had with Mr. Hiss, beginning April 3, 1947 — about five months after he was elected, and three months after he assumed the duties of, President of the Carnegie Endowment.

I am afraid it will not give you the slightest assistance along the line you talked to me about.

You can return the correspondence to me after it has served any useful purpose.

I am looking forward to seeing you at breakfast at the Union Club (69th Street & Park Avenue) on Wednesday, February 23, at any hour you may suggest from 8:30 A.M. to (say) 9:30 A.M.

Very truly yours,

*Wm Marshall Bullitt*

WMB-LHJ

Encl

65-14920-2230

F. B. I.	
FEB 1 1949	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE





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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, N. Y.

MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. CLEGG  
MR. GLAVIN  
MR. LADD  
MR. NICHOLS  
MR. ROSEN  
MR. TRACY  
MR. HARBO  
MR. MOHR  
MR. WINTERROWD  
TELE. ROOM  
MR. HOLLOMAN  
MISS GANDY

February 10, 1949

MEMORANDUM:

Re: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, with aliases  
ALGER HISS, et al;  
PERJURY; ESPIONAGE - R

*H. H. Hissbos*  
*O'Keefe*  
*Kelly*

Reference is made to my memorandum dated January 11, 1949, setting forth certain instructions and assignments in instant matter. Effective at once the following changes will be noted.

Hereafter Special Agent Robert F. X. O'Keefe will be responsible for correlating the <sup>REPORTED</sup> investigative activities in this area and submitting the investigative reports emanating from this office in this case. As heretofore, all agents are to dictate promptly on all investigation conducted and have the stencils expedited. The stencils are to be reviewed by the dictating agent immediately and handed to Agent O'Keefe for inclusion in the next investigative report. In this connection, the next investigative report in this case will include in the period when made investigation conducted up to and including February 15, 1949. It is imperative that all investigation conducted up to that date be dictated upon by the close of business on February 16.

Special Agent Kelly, besides the assignment set forth in my memorandum of January 11, will be responsible for the prompt submission of all prosecutive summary reports in this case.

A. J. TUOHY,  
Supervisor

AJT:RAA  
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FEB 10 1949  
N. Y. C.  
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United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

New York, New York.  
February 15, 1949.

MEMO.

Re: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS,  
was.; ET AL;  
PERJURY;  
ESPIONAGE - R

*Lead  
cards  
orig L.W. Sullivan  
H  
L. Sullivan  
2/17*

During the course of an interview with the captioned subject on February 8, 1949 he was contacted by Mr. McNULTY, his New York attorney.

Following his conversation with Mr. McNulty, the subject stated that he had been advised that the investigators for ALGER HISS had been "very busy". He stated that they had been in contact with GRACE LUEKIN.

With reference to GRACE LUEKIN, she has been previously identified by CHAMBERS as being a friend of his wife and the former wife of one MICHAEL INTRATOR who was an old associate of CHAMBERS when both were members of the Communist Party. He stated that approximately two or three weeks ago GRACE LUEKIN had written his wife stating that she had had a visit from an investigator for ALGER HISS. She did not provide any names but told Mrs. CHAMBERS that she felt that she had convinced this investigator that ALGER HISS was lying and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS was telling the truth.

She also stated that there had been some discussion with this investigator relative to GRACE HUTCHINS' part in approaching ROBERT SHERNITZ in an attempt to locate CHAMBERS. In her letter GRACE LUEKIN then reminded CHAMBERS that she had first told him that sometime in 1938 GRACE HUTCHINS had been in contact with ROBERT SHERNITZ and as the latter did not know CHAMBERS' whereabouts, he in turn had contacted GRACE LUEKIN in an attempt to locate CHAMBERS.

According to information received from McNULTY, CHAMBERS stated that the HISS investigators apparently have had GRACE LUEKIN in the office of Mr. McLEAN who is the attorney for ALGER HISS in New York City. Mr. McNULTY further indicated they had apparently questioned her concerning her personal relations with Mrs. CHAMBERS.

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CHAMBERS stated that he gathered "from inference" that she had also been questioned concerning his, CHAMBERS', personal relations with MICHAEL INTRATOR.

CHAMBERS stated that McNULTY did not explain how he had secured this information. Further, he stated that McNULTY had no idea as to how the investigators were able to get GRACE LUMKIN to come to the office of Mr. McLEAN, the attorney for ALGER HISS.

With reference to GRACE LUMKIN, CHAMBERS stated that she had become very religious in the 1940's. He said it was his impression that she has a "missionary's view" towards this controversy between ALGER HISS and himself. He based this on the fact that she had once written to him that she was praying for ALGER HISS and hoped that he, CHAMBERS, would do likewise. He stated that she is presently employed in some unknown capacity by the Calvary Episcopal Church which is located on Gramercy Park in New York City and the pastor of which is one Reverend SHOEMAKER.

MICHAEL INTRATOR, according to CHAMBERS, is now living at 37 Bank Street in New York City and is remarried. CHAMBERS noted that INTRATOR has an acute heart condition. He further stated that INTRATOR is occasionally rude and unpleasant, but that CHAMBERS does not feel that he would be so if he were contacted by Bureau Agents. CHAMBERS admitted that he has discussed this case with INTRATOR but not "within the last two months".

In conclusion CHAMBERS said that from McNULTY'S conversation, the HISS investigators have apparently also questioned GRACE LUMKIN concerning his, CHAMBERS', religious affiliations. In this respect, GRACE LUMKIN, according to CHAMBERS, has apparently stated that CHAMBERS had been an Episcopalian but had become a Quaker inasmuch as it was easier for his wife, being Jewish, to become a Quaker rather than an Episcopalian. In this regard CHAMBERS stated that this statement is not true. He explained that when he decided to become a member of the Quaker religion, his wife had likewise joined this church in order to keep their family in one religious group.

It is suggested that contact be had with GRACE LUMKIN for any and all information which she may be able to give concerning

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WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, his wife, and their activities during the entire period of their association.

It is further suggested that consideration be given to approaching MICHAEL INTRATOR for the same purpose.

FRANCIS X. PLANT  
SA



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

New York, New York.  
February 15, 1949.

MEMO.

Re: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS,  
was.; ET AL;  
PERJURY;  
ESPIONAGE - R.

- MR. SCHEIDT
  - MR. BELMONT
  - MR. WHELAN
  - MR. PRISCOLL
  - MR. GRANVILLE
  - MR. HANCOCK
  - MR. KUNZ
  - MR. MARCHESSAULT
  - MR. MOYNIHAN
  - NIGHT SUPERVISOR
  - MR. CONN
  - MR. SHANNON
  - MR. TUOHY
  - MR. WATSON
  - PROPERTY CLERK
  - TRAINING UNIT
- Hilsbos*

This memorandum is being submitted in order to place on record the following information which was brought to the attention of the writer by WHITTAKER CHAMBERS on February 8, 1949.

Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he had received information that a member or former member of the investigative staff being employed by ALGER HISS would be willing to advise as to just what information their investigations had turned up "for a consideration". He stated further that this information had been brought to his attention by BENJAMIN MANDELL who is known to be an employee of the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

He presented to the writer a letter dated December 3, 1948 addressed to himself and signed "DEM" and bearing the initials "B. K." This merely advised CHAMBERS that the address of STEPHEN W. BIRMINGHAM is 150-21 34th Avenue, Flushing, Long Island. The telephone number is Flushing 3-0235. Mr. CHAMBERS explained that MANDELL told him that the identity of this HISS investigator could be determined by contacting the aforementioned STEPHEN W. BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. CHAMBERS stated that he had told MANDELL that he was not at all interested in such a procedure. He stated that he was advising the writer of the incident so as to make it a matter of record. The writer informed Mr. CHAMBERS that the information would be appropriately noted but that the Bureau was not at all interested in approaching such an individual.

FRANCIS X. PLANT  
SA

FXP:MED  
65-14920

*Dr*

65-14920-2174

F. B. I.

FEB 15 1949

N. Y. C.

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*Kelly* *of*

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, N. Y.

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

February 16, 1949

MEMORANDUM:

Re: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, with aliases  
ALGER HISS, et al;  
PERJURY  
ESPIONAGE - R

On the morning of February 16, 1949, in the absence of Supervisor Ken Delavigne, I spoke to Special Agents John Howard and James Frew of the Washington Field Office in connection with their efforts to secure expense vouchers of ALGER HISS during the period of his Government service.

I referred to WFO letter of February 8, 1949, in which they stated that expense vouchers relative to HISS had previously been submitted to the Bureau. I also referred to report of Special Agent Cortland J. Jones, 1-28-49, WFO, page 60, in which the statement was made that on December 20, 1948, and January 7, 1949, SA Frew had obtained five expense vouchers of ALGER HISS and three of DONALD HISS from the State Department, and that these were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory. SA Frew, who stated he conducted the investigation looking toward the securing of the expense vouchers, advised that the State Department had no system by which expense vouchers prior to 1944 could be located. He stated that their master system was instituted in 1944, and that the five expense vouchers mentioned in reference report were dated in the period 1944 to 1947. He stated that investigation had been conducted at the General Accounting Office in order to secure HISS' expense vouchers for the period 1936 to 1944, but no expense account could be located for that period. He stated that the General Accounting Office had conducted an exhaustive search with negative results. He pointed out that this search, of course, was made by the GAO, and not by Bureau agents. He stated that the report of this investigation was being included in their next report, and the reason that no previous report had been sent to the New York Office was because of its negative nature and due to the fact that their efforts to locate these vouchers had continued up to the first of February, and even now they were attempting to determine if there was any other possible way of checking through the State Department expense vouchers for the pertinent period, which are kept in numerical order under an old system that the State Department uses. He stated that in view of the fact that the General Accounting Office, which has a system by which they normally should be able to locate an expense account if one were submitted, had not been able to find one,



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it was a question whether it was feasible to further check the State Department files.

I pointed out to SA Frew the importance that these expense vouchers could have in the event a voucher for a period covering the association of HISS and CHAMBERS could be located and could show that HISS was in one of the places named by CHAMBERS in our interviews with him. I asked Special Agent Frew to discuss this matter again with Supervisor Ken Delavigne and advise us whether there was any possibility of making further checks for these expense vouchers.

J. T. HILSBOS,  
Special Agent

At 4:40 p.m. Supervisor Ken Delavigne called me in connection with my request that he discuss this matter with Special Agent Frew. Mr. Delavigne again indicated that the information furnished by Frew was correct. He stated that when this original check was made at the State Department the purpose was to secure expense vouchers for the purpose of typewriting specimens. Mr. Delavigne stated that they would be willing to attempt a recheck of the State Department vouchers provided they could be limited to a period of say possibly one year. I advised him that it was extremely important, if possible, that we get some indication that HISS was in Thomaston, Connecticut, or Peterboro, New Hampshire or in any place other than Washington, so that we could discuss such trips with CHAMBERS to possibly refresh his recollection of any other meetings in 1937 between himself and HISS. Mr. Delavigne stated that he would immediately assign a number of agents to check the State Department expense vouchers for 1937 in an attempt to locate any that had been submitted by ALGER HISS.